

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02563 291145Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 SPC-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /083 W

----- 008767

R 291012Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: DRV AMBASSADOR'S POSITION AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. THE RETURN OF DRV AMBASSADOR LE VAN HIEN TO VIENTIANE, AND HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, RAISES SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. MISSION RELATIONSHIPS WITH A DRV DEAN AND HIS EMBASSY. WE HAVE CHECKED THE FILES WITHOUT FINDING ANY DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS COVERING THIS SUBJECT.

2. AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN VIENTIANE HAVE, OF COURSE, OCCASIONALLY DEALT WITH DRV EMBASSY PERSONNEL OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, PRIMARILY TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR AMERICAN POW/MIA VISITORSS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTACTS AS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, WHICH OUR OFFICERS HAVE UTILIZED TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN INDOCHINA.

3. GIVEN THE IMMINENT FORMATION OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, I BELIEVE IT INEVITABLE THAT I AND MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF SHALL OFTEN BE INVOLVED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DRV EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. I CAN ALSO FORESEE SUBJECTS ARISING WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 02563 291145Z

EMBASSY AND THE DRV EMBASSY BECAUSE OF AMBASSADOR LE VAN HIEN'S

FUNCTIONS AS DEAN OF THE CORPS. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE LEARNED THAT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN, HE REQUESTED SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES TO BE PRESENT AT THE AIRPOR MARCH 27 FOR THE ARRIVAL OF PATHET LAO PLENIPOTENTIARY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT. ALL AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES IN TOWN WHOSE COUNTRIES HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE DRV HAVE ALREADY MADE FORMAL CALLS ON LE VAN HIEN.

4. I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WISH TO APPEAR OVER-FRIENDLY TO THE DRV AMBASSADOR. NEVERTHELESS, I THINK AN UNDOGMATIC APPROACH TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO OUR GOAL OF REDUCING TENSION IN INDOCHINA. IT WOULD ALSO FIT WELL INTO THE RELAXED DIPLOMATIC ENVIRONMENT OF VIENTIANE, WHERE ALL MANNER OF ADVERSARIES SMILE SWEETLY AT EACH OTHER FOR SOUVANNA'S BENEFIT AT LAO GOVERNMENT CEREMONIES.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE, I COULD CALL ON LE VAN HIEN TO PAY MRE RESPECTS IN REGARD TO HIS POSITION AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE INTERPRETED LOCALLY AS A POLITE AND MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE, ENHANCING OUR IMAGE OF SUPPORTING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD HANDLE OTHER CONTACTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AS THE SITUATION UNFOLDS, SEEKING DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE WHEN NECESSARY.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT AS, IF I AM TO CALL ON HIM, I SHOULD DO SO IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC CORPS DEAN, CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI02563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740069-0369
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974032/aaaaabsq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRV AMBASSADOR'S POSITION AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA, US, (LE VAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005